

**TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21st CENTURY (TEA-21)
REAUTHORIZATION & REVIEW**

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
October 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

Prepared by: Rick Judd, Federal Aid Planning & Analysis Manager
Reviewed by: Kathleen Davis, Director, Highways & Local Programs
Amy Arnis, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning & Programming
Larry Ehl, Federal Liaison
Approved by: Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

To inform the Commission about the current status of federal transportation legislation, highlight some of the possible implications for WSDOT, and provide an overview of key federal highway and transit programs and how WSDOT manages federal funds.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

No action is required.

BACKGROUND:

TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) is the legislative framework for the federal investment and involvement in transportation, and expired on October 1, 2003. Congress and the Administration have been unable to agree on TEA-21's successor legislation, and have passed six short-term extensions of TEA-21 while negotiations continue. TEA-21 is now scheduled to expire on May 31, 2005.

DISCUSSION:

This information is provided to the Commission to keep them informed of the current status of the reauthorization of federal highway transportation funding, and to discuss the current federal highway funds programs and federal transit programs. This presentation will also include a brief overview of an effort lead by the Governor's office to develop recommendations for the distribution of flexible federal funds that are anticipated to be available once reauthorization is passed by congress.

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation is necessary.

For further information, contact: Rick Judd, Federal Aid Planning & Analysis Manager
at 360-705-7120.